

IN THE CLAIMS

Pleas cancel claims 2-27 without prejudic and add new claims 28-57. The pending claims are listed on the following Pending Claims.

Pending Claims

1. (Original) An electrosurgical stylet, comprising:
 - a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end and defining a longitudinal axis therebetween;
 - a head fixed to the distal end of the shaft; and
 - a tissue ablation electrode extending distally from the head.

28. (New): A biopsy system, comprising:
 - a) an elongate cannula which has an open distal end, a proximal end, an inner lumen extending to and in fluid communication with the open distal end and a longitudinal axis;
 - b) a first tissue cutting element which is disposed on the open distal end of the cannula and which lies in a plane traversing the longitudinal axis of the cannula;
 - c) an elongate stylet which is slidably disposed at least in part within the inner lumen of the cannula, which is configured for axial translation between a withdrawn position and an extended position and which has a distal end having larger transverse dimensions than the transverse dimension of the open distal end of the elongate cannula;
 - d) a second tissue cutting element which is disposed on a distal end of the stylet distal to the first cutting element and which lies in a plane parallel with the longitudinal axis of said stylet.

29. (New) The biopsy system of claim 28 wherein the first tissue cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

30. (New) The biopsy system of claim 29 including a first electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the first tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

31. (New) The biopsy system of claim 28 wherein the first tissue cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

32. (New) The biopsy system of claim 31 including a second electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the second tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto]

33. (New): The biopsy system of claim 28, wherein the distal end of the stylet has a substantially hemispherical head and the second tissue cutting element extends over the hemispheric head.

34. (New): The biopsy system of claim 28, wherein the elongate stylet comprises a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end; and a conical head having an insulative frustum-shaped base portion and terminating in an apex portion spaced away from said shaft by said insulative base portion, wherein the second tissue cutting element includes the apex portion.

35. (New): The biopsy system of claim 28, including a driving unit coupled to the stylet for axially translating the stylet between the withdrawn and extended positions.

36. (New): The biopsy system of claim 35, wherein the drive unit has a translation mechanism, comprising
a carrier connected to a proximal portion of the stylet and movably mounted on the drive unit between a first position in which the stylet is in the withdrawn position and a second position in which the stylet is in the extended position; and
a carrier drive, coupled to the carrier, for moving the carrier between the first and second positions.

37. (New): The biopsy system of claim 34, wherein the motor has a drive shaft, and wherein the carrier drive comprises:
a drive screw coupled for rotation with the drive shaft;
a screw-driven mechanism coupled between the drive screw and the carrier, whereby rotation of the drive screw in a first direction moves the carrier from the first position to the second position.

38. (New): The biopsy system of claim 28, including a return electrode to provide a return electrical path for electrical current from the second tissue cutting element.

39. (New): The biopsy system of claim 38, wherein said return electrode is disposed on the biopsy device.

40. (New): The biopsy system of claim 39, wherein the return electrode is disposed on the elongate stylet.

41. (New) The biopsy system of claim 37, wherein the return electrode is disposed on the elongate cannula.

42. (New): A biopsy system, comprising:

- a) an elongate cannula which has an open distal end, a proximal end, an inner lumen extending to and in fluid communication with the open distal end, a longitudinal axis;
- b) a first cutting element which lies in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the elongate cannula;
- c) an elongate stylet which is slidably disposed in part within the inner lumen of the cannula,, which is configured for axial translation between a withdrawn position and an extended position and which has a distal end configured to receive the first cutting element; and
- d) a second tissue cutting element which is disposed on a distal end of the stylet distal to the first cutting element and which has an elongated tissue cutting surface lying in a plane parallel with the longitudinal axis of said stylet.

43. (New) The biopsy system of claim 42 wherein the first tissue cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

44. (New) The biopsy system of claim 43 including a first electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency

electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the first tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

45. (New) The biopsy system of claim 42 wherein the first tissue cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

46. (New) The biopsy system of claim 45 including a second electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the second tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

47. (New): The biopsy system of claim 42, wherein the distal end of the stylet has a substantially hemispherical head and the second tissue cutting element extends over the hemispheric head.

48. (New) A biopsy system, comprising:

- a) an elongate cannula having an open distal end, a proximal end, an inner lumen extending to and in fluid communication with the open distal end and a longitudinal axis;
- b) a first tissue cutting element disposed on the open distal end of the cannula lying in a plane traversing the longitudinal axis of the cannula;
- c) an elongate stylet slidably disposed in part within the inner lumen of the cannula configured for axial translation between a withdrawn position and an extended position; and
- d) a second tissue cutting element which is disposed on a distal end of the stylet distal to the first cutting element and which lies in a plane parallel

with the longitudinal axis of said stylet and which has larger transverse dimensions than the first tissue cutting element.

49. (New) The biopsy system of claim 48 wherein the first tissue cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

50. (New) The biopsy system of claim 49 including a first electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the first tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

51. (New) The biopsy system of claim 48 wherein the second tissue cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

52. (New) The biopsy system of claim 51 including a second electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the second tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

53. (New) The biopsy system of claim 48, wherein the distal end of the stylet has a substantially hemispherical head and the second tissue cutting element extends over the hemispheric head.

54. (New) The biopsy system of claim 48, including a return electrode to provide a return electrical path for electrical current from the second tissue cutting element.

55. (New) The biopsy system of claim 54, wherein the return electrode is disposed on the biopsy device.

56. (New) The biopsy system of claim 54, wherein the return electrode is disposed on the elongate stylet.

57. (New) The biopsy system of claim 54, wherein the return electrode is disposed on the elongate cannula.